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News Release

Speed Skater Finishes One Position Off Canadian World Cup Team

Sudbury, Ontario (January 20, 2007) – Yellowknife short track speed skater Michael Gilday completed the Canadian Open Short Track Championships and National Team Trials #2 over the weekend just one spot off the World Team that will skate in Europe in early February and the World Short Track Championships in March. Finishing the Trials in 7th position he is currently ranked 7th nationally after two sets of trials. The third and final trial of the season that will determine final 2006-07 rankings will be held in March in Montreal.

Gilday entered the final day of competition in 6th place but with a swollen knee and injured ankle suffered in the 500 metre final the night before. "I was really tight coming around the last corner of the 500 and was cranking the turn super hard to get into first when the ice broke from under Monette and he knocked me down. Apparently I did a 360 in the air before crashing," said Gilday. "But that's the way it goes in such intense competition." In the 1000 metre race on the final day, he finished 15th to pull him back in the standings.

Immediately following the competition, Gilday traveled to Toronto to catch a flight to Italy where he and 4 teammates from Quebec and Ontario will compete in the World University Games commencing January 23rd.

"Training to represent NWT at the national level while going to university is a huge challenge, but it's working. Without the support of the *Department of Municipal and Community Affairs* and *Sport North* High Performance Athlete Grant program, and the backing of *Mackenzie Management*, this would be a whole lot harder."

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